AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A computerized method for estimating coverage of search engines, each search engine maintaining an index of words of pages located at specific address in a network, comprising the steps of:

generating a random query, the random query being a logical combination of words found in a training set of the pages;

submitting the random query to a first search engine;
receiving a set of URLs in response to the random search query;
randomly selecting a particular URL identifying a sample page;
generating a strong query for the sample page;
submitting the strong query to a second search engine; and
comparing result information received in response to the strong query to
determine if the second search engine has indexed the sample page.

- 2. (New) The method of claim 1 comprising estimating relative sizes of the indices of the first and second search engines by dividing a fraction of a first set of pages sampled from the second search engine that are contained in the first search engine by a fraction of a second set of pages sampled from the first search engine that are contained in the second search engine.
- 3. (New) The method of claim 2 comprising estimating a relative amount of overlap of the indices of the first and second search engines by computing a fraction of

a set of pages sampled from the second search engine that are combined in the first search engine.

- 4. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the training set of pages relates to a particular context domain.
- 5. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the random query combines random words selected from the training set with a logical operator.
- 6. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the random query is a disjunctive query.
- 7. (New) The method of claim 6 wherein the disjunctive query combines a set of words using OR operators, the set of words having a predetermined size.
- 8. (New) The method of claim 7 wherein the words of the training set have relative frequencies that are substantially similar.
- 9. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the random query is a conjunctive query combining a pair of words and an AND operator.
 - 10. (New) The method of claim 9 comprising: sorting the words in the training set according to frequencies of the words;

establishing an upper frequency threshold and a lower frequency threshold so that when words equidistant from the upper and lower thresholds are combined in the conjunctive query, a set of addresses is less than or equal to a predetermined maximum number of members.

11. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the network is the World Wide Web and comprising:

and

fetching the particular URL from the first search engine; fetching a corresponding page from the World Wide Web; and constructing the strong query to be representative of the sample page.

- 12. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the result information includes URLs of pages indexed by the second search engine.
- 13. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the URLs of the pages indexed and addresses identifying the sample pages are normalized before the comparing.
- 14. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the result information being compared is content of the sample page, and content of the pages indexed by the second search engine.
- 15. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the result information includes host names.
- 16. (New) The method of claim 1 comprising discarding dynamic and outdated pages before comparing.
- 17. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein privileged access is provided to the first search engine.